

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 220

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8514

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FONSEC RABASA ON SPAIN

1. FONSEC RABASA ASKED ME, IN THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR JOVA, TO COME TO HIS HOUSE THIS MORNING WHERE HE IS CONFINED BECAUSE OF A BACK INJURY. HE HANDED ME A COPY OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 28 TO UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM, REQUESTING CONVOCAION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING ABOUT A SUSPENSION OF SPAIN FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND A BREAK IN ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BY UN MEMBERS. WITH MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES, TEXT IS SAME AS PUBLISHED AND TRANSLATED IN EMBTEL 8484.

2. RABASA THEN ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT URGENT REQUEST THAT USG NOT RPT NOT BLOCK SECURITY COUNCIL FROM TAKING UP MATTER. HE ADDED THAT WHAT US SAID IN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE IS OF COURSE UP TO US ALTHOUGH HE HOPED TO DISCUSS THAT WITH SECY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN. HE ASKED ME TO CALL HIM PERSONALLY AS SOON AS I RECEIVED A RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST.

3. ANTICIPATING THAT WE MIGHT CONSIDER MEXICO'S ATTITUDE BIASED TOWARD SPAIN, RABASA POINTED OUT THAT THE POPE, THE EEC, SWEDEN, MOST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND MANY
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OTHERS CONDEMNED THIS LATEST INHUMANE ACTION OF THE FRANCO

REGIME IN EXECUTING THE YOUNG BASQUE NATIONALISTS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE NON-INTERVENTION PROVISION OF THE UN CHARTER BUT NOTED THAT MEXICO HAD THE RIGHT TO BRING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOM'S INTENTION WAS NOT TO PREJUDICE THE US VIEW ON SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE BUT SIMPLY TO HAVE THE MATTER FREELY AND FAIRLY DEBATED. HE THEN INDICATED THAT THIS WAS ALL HE HAD TO SAY OFFICIALLY AND THAT ANY FURTHER CONVERSATION WAS OFF THE RECORD.

4. OFF-THE-RECORD I ASKED HIM WHAT THE GOM HOPED TO ACHIEVE BY ITS PROPOSAL AND WHAT THE BASIS IN THE CHARTER WAS FOR THE ACTION DEMANDED. I POINTED OUT THAT MANY OTHERS MEMBERS OF THE UN HAD LIQUIDATED POLITICAL OPPOSITION OR DISSIDENTS WITHOUT ANY ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST THEM.

5. RABASA REPLIED THAT JUST BETWEEN US HE DID NOT EXPECT GOM TO ACHIEVE THE ACTION REQUESTED BUT HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN PRESSURE ON SPAIN FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD AND ESPECIALLY THE US TO START SOME MOVEMENT TOWARD DEMOCRACY, SOME LIBERALIZATION. OTHERWISE THERE WAS A DANGER OF ANOTHER SPANISH CIVIL WAR OR A REPETITION OF THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION WITH POSSIBLE BIG POWER INTERVENTION AND ALL THAT SUCH INTERVENTION IMPLIED IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY. HE LABELLED THE EXECUTION OF THE YOUNG BASQUE NATIONALISTS A POLITICAL STUPIDITY AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FRANCO WOULD BE FORCED TO STEP DOWN AND OUT.

6. RABASA LOOKED DRAWN AND TIRED AND WAS OBVIOUSLY IN PAIN FROM THE BACK INJURY HE RECENTLY SUFFERED. HE HOBBOLED INTO THE ROOM BUT HAD TO BE HELPED INTO HIS CHAIR AND COULD NOT RISE WHEN I LEFT. HE SAID HIS INJURY WAS PAINFUL BUT NOT GRAVE AND THAT HE STILL HOPED TO ACCOMPANY ECHEVERRIA TO THE UNGA.

7. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS WAITING AS I LEFT AND SAID HE SUPPOSED WE HAD BOTH BEEN SUMMONED ON THE SPANISH ISSUE.

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8 . NOTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHAT TO REPLY TO RABASA.
BRANDIN

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